

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Greers Ferry

National Fish Hatchery



The Greers Ferry National Fish Hatchery and Aquarium is one of more than 80 units in the National Fish Hatchery System administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Service also manages over 475 national wildlife refuges and major fish and wildlife research laboratories across the country. As the Nation's primary steward of fish and wildlife resources, the Service provides leadership in habitat and wetlands protection; fish and wildlife research and technical assistance; and in the conservation and protection of migratory birds, anadromous fishes, certain marine mammals, and threatened and endangered species.

*Greers Ferry
National
Fish
Hatchery*

Welcome and Enjoy Your Visit!

During your visit, please feel free to ask any questions you may have concerning the hatchery.

What we do

Operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, this National Fish Hatchery is one of many serving a vital role in the management of our country's fishery resources.

photo: USFWS



Construction of a dam, regardless of its type, alters the entire environment within the river. The first and most obvious change takes place when the reservoir fills, but many changes may

also take place below the dam. Some of them might be subtle, and others, like those in the Greers Ferry tailwaters, might be quite drastic. Greers Ferry Dam produces a large, deep reservoir in which the water stratifies into temperature layers during the summer. The water released into Little Red River comes from a deep, cool layer. It caused a loss of the original warm-water fish habitat and replaced it with the present cold tailwater.

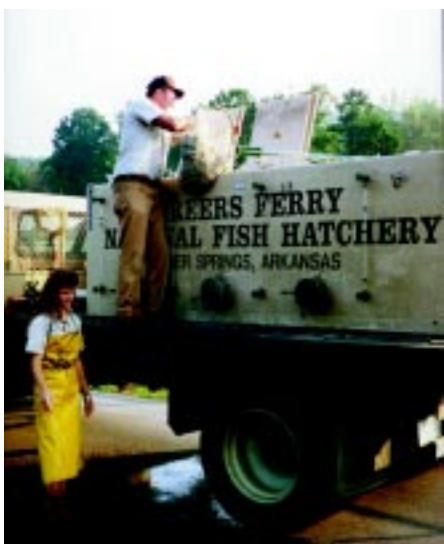
photo: USFWS



photo: USFWS

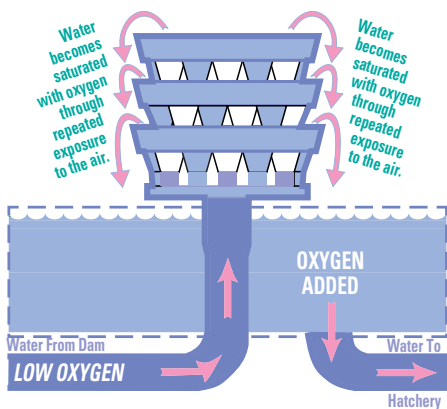


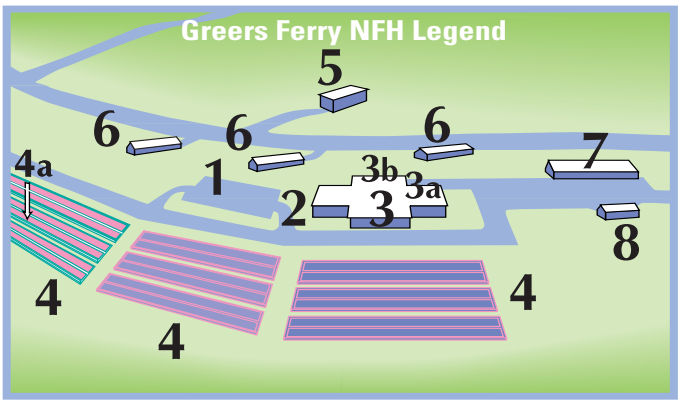
photo: USFWS



The Greers Ferry Hatchery was established in 1965 to produce rainbow trout for restocking the cold tailwaters below Greers Ferry and other dams. Reservoirs which will support trout are also stocked. In cooperation with the State game and fish agencies, we distribute about 220,000 pounds of trout each year to suitable waters in Arkansas and contiguous states.

The hatchery's water supply comes from Greers Ferry Reservoir at a depth of more than 100 feet below the water surface. The temperature at this depth is cold the year round, ranging between 44° and 56°F. After the water is aerated to add oxygen, it flows through the hatchery at rates up to 15,000 gallons per minute.





1. Visitor Parking

2. Visitor Information

At the kiosk, read information pertaining to the National Fish Hatchery System, the Greers Ferry National Fish Hatchery and the

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Located throughout the grounds you will find informational signs to help you understand the hatchery and its operation.



photo: USFWS



photo: USFWS

3. Hatchery Building and Visitor Center

We invite you to view the various exhibits on display. Restrooms are provided for your convenience.

3a. Hatchery office

3b. Incubator and

Juvenile Fish Rearing Area

Eggs are received and incubated in the incubator and juvenile fish rearing area from August through February. At this stage the fish are extremely vulnerable, and we ask

photo: USFWS



photo: USFWS

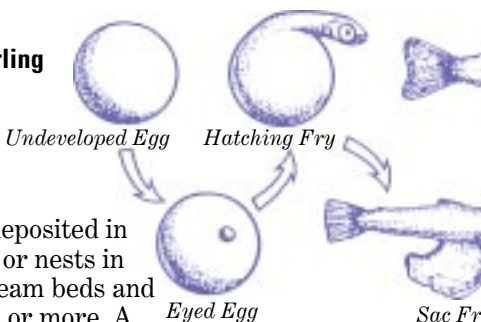


that visitors do not enter this area unless accompanied by hatchery personnel.

As the eggs hatch and the yolk sacs are absorbed, the young trout swim up from the bottom of the troughs and are fed commercial feeds. When they reach a size of approximately 2–3 inches (3–4 months old), they are transferred to the raceways outside.

Life - Cycle of

Egg to Fingerling



Natural Life

Trout eggs are deposited in prepared redds, or nests in the gravel of stream beds and hatch in 8 weeks or more. A young fish or fry lives for 3 to 4 weeks on food absorbed from the yolk sac.

About the time the yolk is completely absorbed, the fingerling emerges from the gravel and feeds on microscopic aquatic organisms.





4. Raceway Area

In the raceway area (water flow approximately 11,000 gallons per minute), the fish are fed and cared for until they reach the 9-inch stocking size (approximately 16 months old).

Feeding activities range from twice a day for the larger fish to 5–6 times daily for the smaller sizes.

Throughout the year fish are harvested from the raceways and distributed by truck for stocking in tailwaters and reservoirs in Arkansas and surrounding states.

Greers Ferry National Fish Hatchery stocks approximately 1 million rainbow trout annually.

Rainbow Trout



Fingerling Trout



From the many eggs deposited in the gravel, only a very few young fish are produced and survive to adulthood. Most of the eggs and young fish die from natural causes such as floods, silt,

drought and predators.

Under natural conditions, relatively few trout reach catchable size to be taken by fishermen.



photo: USFWS



Hopefully, we are providing you with the subject for your next “big fish story.”

Warning

Please use caution in the raceway area. We want only fish in the water, please.

4a. Adult Rainbow Trout

5. Aerator Building

The aerator building accomplishes the task of enriching with

photo: USFWS



photo: USFWS



photo: USFWS



photo: USFWS



photo: USFWS

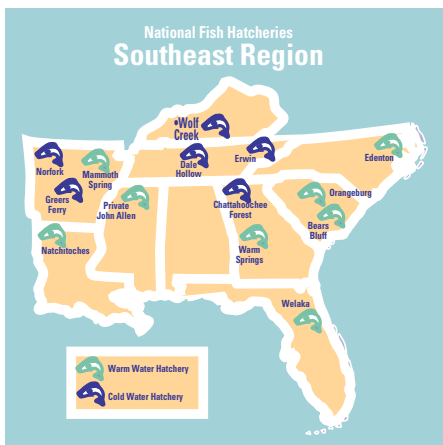


oxygen the water coming from the low levels in the Greers Ferry Lake. Rainbow trout need cold water high in oxygen to survive. In the interest of safety this building is not open to the public.

6. 7. & 8. Private Residences For Hatchery Personnel

These buildings are not open to the public. They are private residences and working areas involved with the mechanical aspects of the hatchery's maintenance and operation.

Greers Ferry National Fish Hatchery is one of many U.S. hatcheries located in the southeast region. These hatcheries serve a vital role in the management of our fishery resources





We enjoyed having you visit the hatchery and invite you to return often. Your awareness of our resource and its needs is the basic foundation for support of healthy fish and wildlife populations.



What can you do?

Visitors are welcome to tour the hatchery and aquarium. During your visit, please feel free to ask questions you may have concerning the hatchery.

Hatchery Hours

7:30am–3:30pm daily

Restrooms, drinking water, and parking areas are provided for public use.

Group Tours

Special group tours can be arranged with the Hatchery Manager. You are invited to return often.

For Additional Information Contact

Hatchery Manager

Greers Ferry National Fish Hatchery

349 Hatchery Rd.

Heber Springs, AR 72543

501/362 3615

Other Activities

Nestled in the eastern foothills of the Arkansas Ozarks, the Greers Ferry area is a haven for those who enjoy hunting, fishing, swimming, camping and other outdoor activities. Each spring the wild plums, dogwoods,

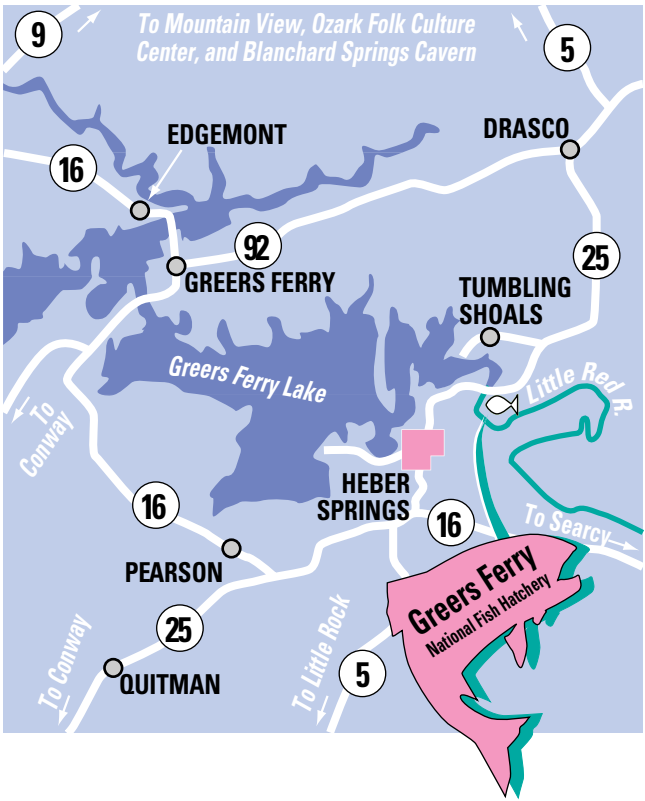


photo: USFWS

redbuds and other wild flowers make sight-seeing a worthy attraction; and once again in the fall, pleasure driving is at its peak with the spectacular colors of the Ozark autumn.

Blanchard Springs Caverns, just a one and a half hour drive from here, features rare cave dwellers such as blind salamanders and albino crayfish living among beautiful limestone formations some 216 feet under-ground. At nearby Mountain View is the Ozark Folk Culture Center, where folk music, dancing, and demonstrations of mountain crafts provide an unforgettable experience.

**Greers Ferry
National Fish Hatchery
349 Hatchery Road
Heber Springs, Arkansas 72543
501/362 3615
<http://www.southeast.fws.gov>**

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD**

April 2001

